

**JOINT BOARD OF LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION
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Technical Bulletin

Ductless Type Air Conditioning Units Single or Multi Split Installations June 26, 2014

Several questions regarding the disconnecting means for A/C ductless split systems have come to the attention of the Electricians' Board office. This technical bulletin is being issued to clarify that a readily accessible disconnecting means is required and must be located within site from the indoor unit.

The National Electrical Code (NFPA 70-2011) (NEC), which was adopted by the State of New Hampshire on July 1, 2011, was used as the reference for the following question. Does the indoor section of an A/C ductless split system require a disconnecting means that is located in a readily accessible location within sight of the indoor section? The information below is a condensed version of the information gathered by this office for the determination in requiring a disconnect switch for the inside section.

The A/C split system is a complete system which has separate sections; Article 440 applies to the entire system. In 440.3(A) Article 430 is referenced as follows. *"These provisions are in addition to, or amendatory of, the provisions of Article 430 and other articles in this Code, which apply except as modified in this article."* Part IX of Article 430 is where the motor disconnecting means requirements are found in general, but as noted above Article 440 can amend Article 430, which 440.14 does. It states the *"Disconnecting means shall be located within sight from and readily accessible from the air conditioning or refrigerating equipment. The disconnecting means shall be permitted to be installed on or within the air-conditioning or refrigerating equipment. The disconnecting means shall not be located on panels that are designed to allow access to the air-conditioning or refrigeration equipment or to obscure the equipment nameplate(s)."* There are two exceptions to 440.14, that are for specific applications, but in general the disconnect switch is required to be within sight of and readily accessible when installing the inside section(s) of an A/C ductless split system. Article 100 defines "in sight from" or "within sight" as being visible and not more than 15m (50 ft.).